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| PRESS RELEASE |
| **May 2023** |

**Average net wage in April 1,265 КМ**

**Both monthly and annual real wage growth**

Average monthly net wage in Republika Srpska paid in April 2023 amounted to 1,265 KM, and it was nominally 0.6% higher and really 0.3% higher compared to March 2023. Compared to the same month of the previous year, it was nominally 15.6% higher and really 6.1% higher. Average monthly gross wage amounted to 1,921 KM.

In April 2023, the highest average net wage, by section of economic activities, was paid in the section *Information and communication* and it amounted to 1,643 KM. On the other hand, the lowest average net wage in April 2023 was the one paid in the section *Construction*, 933 KM.

In April 2023, compared to April 2022, a nominal increase in net wages was recorded in all sections of economic activity, with the highest increase being recorded in the section *Arts, entertainment and recreation* 24.1%, followed by *Accommodation and food service activities* 21.8% and *Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles* 21.1%.

KM



Graph 1. Average net wages by month

**Monthly inflation 0.3% in April 2023**

**Annual inflation (April 2023/April 2022) 9.0%**

Prices of products and services used for personal consumption in Republika Srpska, measured with the consumer price index, in April 2023, compared to the previous month, were on average 0.3% higher, while compared to the same month of the previous year they were on average 9.0% higher.

Of the 12 main divisions of products and services, an increase in prices was recorded in ten divisions, while a decrease was recorded in two divisions.

The highest annual increase in prices in April 2023 was recorded in the division *Housing,* by 20.2%, due to higher prices in the groups electricity and other energy sources by 24.4%, maintenance and repair of the dwelling by 11.7% and water supply and other municipal services by 8.7%. An increase in prices was also recorded in the division *Food and non-alcoholic beverages,* by 13.8%, due to higher prices in the groups milk and dairy products by 28.1% and fish by 24.8%. An increase in prices by 12.6% recorded in the division *Other goods and services* occurred due to higher prices in the group personal care items by 17.2%.

An increase in prices was recorded in the following divisions as well: *Furnishings and household equipment,* by 10.5%, due to higher prices in the group carpets and other floor coverings by 13.4% and in the group household cleaning and maintenance products by 13.3%; *Recreation and culture*, by 6.9%, due to higher prices in the group pet products by 19.4%; *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco,* by 6.5%, due to higher prices in the group beer by 10.2%.

An increase in prices by 6.2% was recorded in the division *Restaurants and hotels,* due to higher prices in the group restaurant and café services by 7.0%. An increase in prices by 2.1% in the division *Health* occurred due to higher prices in the groups physical therapy accessories and equipment by 4.8% and dental services by 4.2%, while an increase by 1.3% in the division *Communication* occurred due to higher prices in the group telecommunication services by 1.4%. An increase in prices by 0.6% recorded in the division *Education* occurred due to higher prices in the group preschool education by 6.7%

A decrease in prices at the annual level in April 2023 was recorded in the division *Transport*, by 4.4%, due to lower prices in the group fuels and lubricants for passenger cars by 12.1%, and in the division *Clothing and footwear*, by 3.2%, due to seasonal discounts on ready-made clothing and footwear during the year.

Annual inflation

Monthly inflation

%

Graph 2. Monthly and annual inflation

**Working-day adjusted industrial production (Jan-Apr 2023/Jan-Apr 2022) decreased by 2.1%**

Working-day adjusted industrial production in Republika Srpska in the period January – April 2023, compared to the same period of 2022, decreased by 2.1%. During the same period, in the section *Mining and quarrying* an increase by 6.6% was recorded, while in the section *Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply* a decrease by 0.6% was recorded and in the section *Manufacturing* a decrease by 4.7%.

Seasonally adjusted industrial production in Republika Srpska in April 2023, compared to March 2023, decreased by 1.9%. Working-day adjusted industrial production in Republika Srpska in April 2023, compared to April 2022, decreased by 7.5%.

Trend indices

Seasonally adjusted indices

Graph 3. Indices of industrial production, March 2019 – March 2023 (∅2015=100)

**Number of employees in industry (April 2023/April 2022) decreased by 1.3%**

Number of employees in industry in April 2023, compared to the same month of the previous year, was 1.3% lower.

Number of employees in industry in April 2023, compared to the 2022 average, was 1.3% lower and compared to the March 2023 it was 0.1% lower.

**In the period January-April 2023, the highest value of export was that of exports to Serbia and Croatia**

In the period January – April 2023, the value of export was one billion and 793 million KM, which represented an increase by 2.2% compared to the period January - April 2022, while the value of import was two billion and 181 million KM, which represented a decrease by 0.3% compared to the period January - April 2022. The percentage of coverage of import with export was 82.2%.

In April 2023, the value of export was 439 million KM, which represented a decrease by 6.3% compared to the same month of 2022, while the value of import was 562 million KM, which represented a decrease by 7.6% compared to April 2022. The percentage of coverage of import with export was 78.2%.

In terms of the geographical distribution of external trade of Republika Srpska, in the period January – April 2023, the highest value of export was that of export to Serbia, with 270 million KM or 15.1%, followed by Croatia, with 256 million KM or 14.3% of the total realised export. During the same period, the highest value of import was that of import form Italy, with 344 million KM or 15.8%, followed by Serbia, with 338 million KM or 15.5% of the total realised import.

By group of products, in the period January - April 2023, the highest share in export was that of electricity, with the total value of 241 million KM, which was 13.5% of the total export, while the highest share in import was that of petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (other than crude), with the total value of 137 million KM, which was 6.3% of the total import

thous. КМ

Export

Import

2023

2022

Graph 4. Export and import by month

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